the current financial year (1994-95) as on 30.6.94 the over all production of raw coal is 51.28 million tonnes (provisional).

(b) The target of over all raw coal production; open cast production and washed coal production etc. for the year 1994-95 are as under:

(million tonnes)

Raw Coal	Open Cast Production	Washed Coal
253.60	*176.87	12.62

*excluding captive mines.

(c) Coal production from existing mines and on-going projects, (new and re-organised) will contribute towards achieving the target for the current year.

Amendment of industrial disputes Act

*111. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what further steps have been taken to bring an amendment of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 in consultation with the employees; and

(b) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Labour had constituted a Bipartite Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri G. Ramanujam "to formulate specific proposals for the new Industrial Relation Bill." The report submitted by the Committee contained, inter alia, proposals to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The proposals of the Committee were further considered by the Standing Labour Committee and the Indian Labour Conference. Based on the recommendations of the Ramanujam Committee and discussions held thereon in various forums, the Government have formulated a proposal for amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. Broadly, the proposal is designed to ensure bipartism in industrial disputes resolution so as to avoid third party intervention to the maximum extent possible, to remove the restrictive provisions militating against the enhanced investments in the industrial sector, to provide for superior separation benefits to employees in circumstances of rationalisation of manpower and to streamline the Act so as to secure a greater degree of harmony in Industrial Relations conducive to increased production and productivity.

Supply of poor quantity of foodgrains through PDS

*112. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large section of people have been complaining about the supply of poor quality of foodgrains, particularly, wheat, rice and sugar through Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, what steps Government have so far taken or propose to take to improve the quality of foodgrains supplied through PDS in the country;

(c) whether most of the good quality foodgrains stored in the godowns of Civil Supplies department are exchanged for poor quality foodgrains by certain persons in connivance with the officials concerned;

(d) if so, the details of such complaints which have come to government's notice, State-wise;

(e) what remedial action Government have taken or propose to take in this regard; and

(f) whether Government have made any enquiry as to from which State/

agency the inferior quality of foodgrains, particularly, wheat, rice and sugar, have been procured for distribution through PDS and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) to (f) The Central Government makes bulk allocation of foodgrains and other PDS items to States|UTs. Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been instructed to procure, store and supply foodgrains free from infestation and conforming to standards laid down in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) to State Governments and U.T. Administrations for public Distribution System (PDS). Opportunity is given to the State Governments or their Nominees to inspect the foodgrains in the godowns of FCI before taking delivery of the same. State Governments/U.T. Administrations have the right to reject the lot if it does not conform to the prescribed standards. Samples are drawn at the time of delivery and given to the State/U.T. Agencies which are to be displayed at the places where the grains are distributed.

Operational responsibility for implementing the PDS rests with the State Governments and U.T. Administrations which includes distribution of quality foodgrains and other PDS commodities through the Fair Price Shops within their jurisdiction. They have been delegated powers under the Essential Commodities Act to take action against persons violating the provisions of the Act and Control Orders made thereunder. The Central Government has advised the States/UTs to set up Fair Price Shop (FPS) level vigilance Committee comprising representative of women voluntary organisations, persons belonging to SC ST communities and local consumers to ensure people's involvement in supervision of the PDS. Such Vigilance Committees are reported to have been set up by most State Governments.

The Central Government has not received any major complaint from State Governments|U.T. Administrations regarding poor quality foodgrains and other PDS items being distributed through the PDS. However, there have been complaints from consumers of poor quality PDS items being distributed through PDS. For effective and quick redressal, such grievances have to be looked into by the District Authorities in the State|U.Ts. Details of complaints received from individual consumers and consumer organisations are not maintained by the Central government.

All possible efforts are made by the Government to procure good quality foodgrains from producing States and to store them scientifically to avoid deterioration during storage. In a massive operation involving procurement of nearly twenty million tonnes of foodgrains and their distribution throughout the country, shortcomings in some places, at times cannot altogether be ruled out. However, it would not be correct to say that most of the foodgrains stored in the godowns of the State Civil Supplies Departments are exchanged for poor quality foodgrains in connivance with the concerned officials. No specific instances of this nature have been reported by the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. State Governments|U.T. Administrations have the powers and the enforcement staff to take action against persons|officials indulging in such malpractices.

Report of the special committee on ESI and EPF

*113. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state: